



CHAYAT HASHAVUA: MULE

CAN ANYONE TEACH US THE HEBREW WORD FOR MULE?

- It's *pered*, from the root פָּרַד.
- The basic meaning is to divide or separate.

DOES ANYONE KNOW ABOUT THE IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY MULES IN MODERN JEWISH HISTORY?

- In World War I it was proposed that Jewish volunteers form a special unit in the British Army to help liberate the land of Israel from Turkish rule.
- The idea was rejected by the British but the Jews were permitted to form what became known as the Zion Mule Corps.
- More than 600 Jewish men provided transport services for the British Army in the unsuccessful invasion of Turkey at Gallipoli.
- The Zion Mule Corps used mules to carry all the supplies needed by the army just behind the front lines of battle.
- The British Army commander commended the Zion Mule Corps for bravery, "working their mules calmly under heavy shell and rifle fire."

WHO CAN TEACH US SOME OF THE OTHER CHARACTERISTICS OF MULES:

- The Rabbis said, that they couldn't breed their own kind and were sometimes dangerous was proof that crossbreeding, mating two different kinds of animals, interferes with God's creation.
- Mules, of course, are known to be very stubborn on occasion.
- The hinny, however, is a much more easily handled animal.
- The hinny also has a bushier tail and a heavier body than a mule.

IT'S TIME FOR THE MULE QUIZ!

- Why the mule should be thought of as separate or divided from other animals? (A mule is the offspring of a mare, a female horse, and a jackass, a male donkey.)
- What's a hinny? (The offspring of a jenny, a female donkey, and a stallion, a male horse.)
- What makes mules and hinnys different from almost all other animals? (They can't breed and produce their own kind.)

- What are the most valuable services that mules perform for people? (They are particularly well-suited for riding and carrying loads in mountainous areas, such as exist in Israel.)
- Why would anyone prefer to have a mule rather than a horse or a donkey? (Mules often excel both their parents in intelligence, endurance, surefootedness, and length of life.)

DID YOU KNOW THAT ABRAHAM WAS ONCE COMPARED TO A MULE! (Sefer Ha-Aggadah 22)

- There was conflict between the herdsmen of Abraham's cattle and the herdsmen of his nephew Lot's cattle about whether Lot's cattle were grazing in Abraham's fields (Gen. 13:1 and 13:7).
- Abraham's herdsmen asked, Since when is robbery permitted?
- Lot's herdsmen replied, You know that God said to Abraham: To your children and their children have I given this Land (Gen. 24:7). But Abraham is like a *mule* and cannot father children. He will die soon and Lot will be his heir. So if Lot's cattle eat from his fields, it is their own that they eat.
- God then said to Lot's herdsmen: I did, to be sure, tell Abraham, To your children and their children have I given this land. When? After the seven nations are uprooted from it. But now they still live in the land (Gen. 13:7).
- What were the mistakes made by Lot's herdsmen?
 1. They acted as if Abraham had already come into possession of the land.
 2. They assumed that Abraham would die childless.
 3. They acted as if they had a right to take what belonged to Abraham because some day it would possibly belong to Lot.



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